

City of Takoma Park

THE MONTGOMERY COLLEGE NEIGHBORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

May 30, 2007

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The City of Takoma Park Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, May 30, 2007

Members Present:	Arlene Markowicz, Morelyn Weisman, Kathy Jentz, Frances Phipps
Members Absent:	Bernard Aronson, Sally Brucker
Staff Present:	Ilona Blanchard, Senior Planner
Others Present:	Joy Austin-Lane, Council Member, John Hannon, Gregg Blackley, Felicia Widmann, Mark Freedman, James Evans

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**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 PM

**2. Review and Adopt Minutes – tabled**

**3. Overview and Discussion**

**a. Mission of the Committee:**

Ilona Blanchard reviewed the mission and purpose of the committee as set out in the Committee ordinance.

Question: Is the committee being changed?

Answer: Yes, the City Council and Barbara Matthews are looking at regularizing all the committees, this committee included to ensure that all have a similar structure and processes.

**b. History of the Committee - Minutes Highlights:**

Frances Phipps reviewed the minutes highlights. From the notes, these were highlighted for follow-up:

1. Smith will be doing a plan for pedestrian circulation and traffic circulation, the committee should ask for an update on the status of the plan that is being developed at the request of MNCPPC.
2. The neighborhood street study should be reactivated.
3. Fenton and New York Avenue is a good place for gateway signage – is this still an opportunity?
4. Recommendation to all members and prospective members to review the Facilities Master Plan Subcommittee report as it was very substantive and the response from David Capp. The Key Recommendation is that City Officials should be meeting with College Officials once there are recommendations.
5. Ask the college to provide an update on the parking management plan, parking numbers and the parking manager.
6. Has the College hired a Master Plan consultant? Who is it, what is the project timeline, and which part of the FMP is being updated?

Frances Phipps also noted that the Committee early on requested that the College consider acquiring properties along the tracks for expansion so as not to infringe on the character of the area.

Question: The last set of minutes mentioned the college believing that a 6 story building would be feasible on Fenton some clarification would be useful.

Answer: Jim Evans, who was party to this discussion, did not remember this remark or believe that it had been accurately represented.

#### **c. Discussion of Committee Functioning:**

Discussion tabled.

#### **4. Meeting Dates**

September 5<sup>th</sup> was set as the next meeting with the meetings generally on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month quarterly, however, the meeting dates would still be subject to change.

#### **5. Discussion**

Question: Does the College state that they would like comments at the mandatory referral?

Answer: Yes, David Capp Stated it in a letter.

Comment from Arlene Markowicz: Mandatory Referral is too late as plans have been set. Mandatory referrals are only recommendations. Joy Austin-Lane commented that the Council would like the committee to be proactive new development. When asked how the committee should go about that, Frances Phipps responded that as a community, we need to do our work. We need to analyze our neighborhood, its' existing buildings and the campus. And evaluate what is positive and what does not contribute: look at landscaping, set backs,

parking, massing, views, bright-lines, circulation. What makes our neighborhood residential? What are the characteristics? As a committee we need to discuss this, learn it, decide what is important to our neighborhood, what we can give up, and how to mitigate impacts. We need a documentary basis for making recommendations.

Question: Do we need to respond to the letter from David Capp?

James Evans: Recommends that we delay it as it may be counter productive at the time.

Joy Austin: Recommends that the committee do the research and make recommendations, then let the Council work with the College regarding this position.

Discussions regarding the next steps, relationship with the college and how to proceed.

### **3 Review Master Plan Recommendations:**

In general noted that there was little regarding compatibility of new development, and only one line regarding context compatibility and the work of this committee.

Question: Should we contact Montgomery College? What will be the protocol? Discussion of whether or not it should be left to the Council to work with Montgomery College.

A subcommittee meeting was set up to make a photographic inventory of the neighborhood – streets were assigned. A notice will be sent out to develop a subcommittee meeting date to review the photographs.

### **7. Adjourn.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Approved**

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Ilona Blanchard, Senior Planner

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Frances Phipps, Chair